CASE STUDY

Bank Leumi Accelerates Open Banking Compliance and Enhances Security with Modern Authorization

Bank Leumi, one of Israel's largest and oldest financial institutions, embarked on a significant digital transformation journey to modernize its IT architecture. As the bank transitioned from traditional monolithic systems to a microservices-based architecture, it faced new challenges, particularly in managing and securing its Open Banking APIs. To address these challenges, Bank Leumi chose PlainID to streamline and centralize its authorization processes, enabling the bank to enhance security, meet regulatory requirements, and accelerate time-to-market for new services.

CHALLENGES

- **Transition to Microservices & Migration to Cloud**: The move from monolithic applications to a microservices architecture created complexity in managing access controls across a rapidly growing ecosystem of services. Each microservice, often interacting with multiple databases and applications, required a consistent yet flexible authorization mechanism.
- **Open Banking Compliance**: The adoption of open banking standards introduced stringent regulatory requirements. The bank needed to ensure that third-party access to customer data via APIs was both secure and compliant.
- **Developer Overhead**: Previously, developers were responsible for embedding authorization logic directly into the code of each microservice, which led to inefficiencies and potential inconsistencies in access control implementation.
- **API and Microservice Security Risk**: With a microservices architecture, ensuring a consistent security posture across the entire environment became a critical concern. The security team needed a centralized way to enforce policies without depending on developers to manage access controls.

> *It was a gamechanger – with PlainID, we bridged the gap between security, technical and business teams. The solution and its ease of management was essential for our open banking compliance and journey to the cloud.*
>
> **Ilan Derie**
> **Head of Cyber Security, Cloud and Digital Channels**

INDUSTRY: Banking & Financial Services

EMPLOYEES: 3,700+

CUSTOMERS: 2,000,000+

LOCATION/HQ: Tel Aviv, Israel

CHALLENGES

- Scalability of access controls for 200+ microservices
- Open Banking Compliance
- Inefficiencies due to embedded authorization logic
- Poor and inconsistent authorization

SOLUTION

PlainID provided a centralized platform for managing authorization, utilizing sidecar and API gateway plugins for efficient policy enforcement across microservices. The intuitive interface allowed non-technical users to manage policies, ensuring secure, compliant access for the bank's open banking initiatives while reducing the burden on developers.

SOLUTION

After evaluating several solutions, including IAM platforms and point solutions for authorization, Bank Leumi selected PlainID for its ability to provide centralized, fine-grained authorization – and meet their security and compliance requirements.

Key Features and Implementation Highlights:

- **Centralized Policy Management**: A unified control plane to manage access policies across all APIs and microservices. This not only reduced the burden on developers but also ensured consistency in how authorization rules were applied.
- **Sidecar for Microservices and API Gateway Plugins**: Support for APIs and microservices – by deploying an authorization sidecar alongside each microservice, authorization decisions are enforced at the microservice level without modifying the application code.
- **Ease of Management for Non-Technical Users**: PlainID's UI allowed non-technical users to manage and update policies in plain language without needing to write code. This feature was particularly valuable as it enabled faster response times to changes in regulatory requirements or security needs.
- **Support for Open Banking APIs**: Secured the bank's Open Banking APIs by ensuring that only authorized third parties could access customer data. This was achieved by enforcing fine-grained policies that considered the context of each API request.

BUSINESS RESULTS WITH PLAINID

IMPROVED SECURITY & COMPLIANCE

- **Enhanced Security Posture**: Bank Leumi improved its security posture across its API and microservices architecture. The security team now enforce consistent policies without relying on developers – reducing the risk of human error.
- **Regulatory Compliance**: The PlainID Platform helps Bank Leumi tackle stringent Open Banking regulations by ensuring that only authorized third parties have access to sensitive customer data via the bank's APIs.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

- **Reduced Developer Overhead**: Developers can now focus on building business features rather than access controls. Decoupling authorization from application code simplified the development process and improved agility.
- **Faster Time-to-Market**: Bank Leumi accelerated the development and deployment of new digital services. This agility was crucial in meeting customer expectations in the rapidly evolving financial industry.

SCALABILITY & FLEXIBILITY

- **Support for Enterprise Ecosystem**: As Bank Leumi's microservices ecosystem continues to expand, PlainID's scalable architecture ensures that the bank can easily and securely scale their services without additional complexity.
- **Future-Ready Architecture**: PlainID's solution is designed to be vendor-agnostic, enabling Bank Leumi to remain flexible and responsive to future changes in technology and regulatory environments.

ABOUT PLAINID

PlainID is the world's leading provider of enterprise Authorization, helping enterprises address the complex challenges of Identity Security. The PlainID Platform allows you to discover, manage, and authorize access control policies for enterprise applications and data. Our solution is architected to protect against identity-centric security threats powered by Policy-Based Access Control (PBAC). Visit PlainID.com for more information. Visit PlainID.com for more information..